

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
May 24, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Lance Harris, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Lance Harris, chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Stephanie Hilferty
Representative Patrick O. Jefferson, vice chairman
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth L. Borné, legislative analyst
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst
Jacqueline Snowden, committee administrative assistant
Alexandra Cravins, committee assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Kalan Jenkins, clerk
Hailey Austin, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt a three-minute rule for presenters, witnesses, and members to speak. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 189 by Senator White

Senator White presented Senate Bill No. 189, which provides relative to the jurisdiction of the Central Community School System. Senator White provided various printouts relative to the Central Community School System, labeled Exhibit A in the committee records.

Representative Harris offered amendments to change the proposed geographic boundaries. Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Kimberly Powers, Central Community School Board, 12515 Sullivan Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70818, (225) 921-8784, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 189.

Courtenay Rogers, Tower Capital, 6160 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 757-1110, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 189.

Lauren Zeigler, Tower Capital Corporation, 6160 Perkins Road, #215, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 757-1110, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 189.

Keith Carmon, 7947 Meadow Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 772-9581, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 189.

James Finney, 8121 Oak View Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70814, (225) 252-0412, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 189.

Mary Anne Mushatt, 6030 South Robertson Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 861-8293, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 189.

Murelle C. Harrison, 10733 Malcom Drive, no city or state given, (225) 773-4541, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 189.

Sandra K. Hall, 8412 Hooper Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, (225) 276-2227, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 189.

Albert Samuels, 11243 Greencrest Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, (225) 774-0258, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 189.

William Satterwhite, Greenwood Civic Association, 11358 Fieldcrest Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, (225) 202-3466, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 189.

Aaron Goolsby, 1110 South Range Avenue, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 571-4149, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 189.

Maxwell Ciardullo, Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center, 1340 Poydras Street, Suite 710, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 708-8172, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 189.

Edgar Cage, Together Louisiana, 2019 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70805, (225) 274-5808, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 189.

Councilman Darryl Hurst, East Baton Rouge Parish Metro Council, 4356 Norwich Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 189.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 189 with amendments, to which Representative Jefferson objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 189 was reported with amendments by a vote of 5 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, and Phelps voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 26 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 59 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Resolution No. 140 by Representative Mincey

Representative Mincey presented House Resolution No. 140, which requests the state Department of Education to review instructional requirements provided by state law.

Jennifer Carignan, Louisiana Save Our Schools, P.O. Box 247, Covington, LA 70434, (240) 893-9501, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 140.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 140.

Representative Harris offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 140 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 140 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 57 by Senator McMath

Senator McMath presented Senate Bill No. 57, which provides relative to the compensation of school bus operators.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 57 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 57 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 473 by Senator Milligan

Senator Milligan presented Senate Bill No. 473, which provides relative to foreign interest in certain Louisiana research facilities.

Dr. Jim Henderson, University of Louisiana System, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-300, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (318) 426-7104, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 473.

Representative Charles Owen offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 473 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 473 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Resolution No. 146 by Representative Robby Carter

On behalf of Representative Robby Carter, Chairman Harris presented House Resolution No. 146, which requests the state Department of Education and the Department of Transportation and Development to study the feasibility and effectiveness of installing seat belts on school buses.

Jennifer Carignan, Louisiana Save Our Schools, P.O. Box 247, Covington, LA 70434, (240) 893-9501, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 146.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 146 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 146 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 31 by Senator Jackson

Senator Jackson presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 31, which establishes the Related Services Advisory Commission to study the level of supports statewide for students with special needs and exceptionalities.

Representative Harris offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 31 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 31 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 358 by Senator Jackson

Senator Jackson presented Senate Bill No. 358, which provides relative to acts of bullying.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, (225) 229-6021, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 358.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 358.

Joan Hunt, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3572, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 358.

Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 358.

Representative Freiberg offered amendments to reinstate present law relative to prerequisite for parental relief. Representative Freiberg offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 358 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 358 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Hilferty, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 124 by Senator Abraham

Senator Abraham presented Senate Bill No. 124, which requires the state Department of Education to provide student attendance data of certain students to local school governing authorities.

Representative Amedée offered amendments to:

1. Remove the exception to the prohibition against the Department of Education recording certain children as dropouts.
2. Revise information that local school boards are not responsible for collecting.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Hilferty, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yeas.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana State Bar Association, 635 Main Street #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 382-0333, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 124.

Jennifer Carignan, Louisiana Save Our Schools, P.O. Box 247, Covington, LA 70434, (240) 893-9501, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 124.

Representative Hilferty offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 124 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 124 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Hilferty, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 4 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Pursuant to R.S. 49:968 and 968.1, conduct a hearing on the rules for the state content standards in Social Studies proposed by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for use in public elementary and secondary schools.

Dr. Cade Brumley, Louisiana Department of Education, Claiborne Building, no address provided, spoke for information only and provided a presentation, which is labeled Exhibit B in the committee records.

Jenna Chaisson, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 427-2056, spoke for information only on the presentation.

Representative Harris offered a motion that the House Committee on Education had determined that actions taken by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in adopting state content standards for social studies were appropriate and in conformity with relevant provisions of state law, and the rules promulgating social studies standards as contained in Bulletin 1964 were acceptable. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Hilferty, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Harris announced that Senate Bill No. 131 by Senator Mizell, which requires public postsecondary education boards and institutions to adopt policies to acceptable use of computers and internet services, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Tarver offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Hilferty, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Lance Harris
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: